

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8952
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0158

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP, GW
SUBJECT: CDU RELATIONS WITH SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

REF: SECSTATE 27378 (NOTAL) BONN 2116 (NOTAL)
MADRID 665 503

1. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR CDU FRUSTRATION
WITH THE SPANISH CD EQUIPO, INCLUDING THE LATTER'S FAILURE
TO UNIFY ALL SPANISH CD'S FEARS OF EQUIP COLLABORATION
WITH THE PCE AT THE INSTANCE OF RUIZ GIMENEZ APPEAR TO US
TO BE UNFOUNDED. THE EQUIPO IS A CONFEDERATION OF SIX
LIKE MINDED PARTIES (REFTEL) AND IS LED BY A COLLEGIUM
IN WHICH RUIZ GIMENEZ' IS AN IMPORTANT PERHAPS LEADING BUT
NOT DOMINANT VOICE. MOREOVER, RUIZ GIMENEZ, WHO PROBABLY IS THE
ONLY MAN IN SPANISH POLITICS WHO CAN INSPIRE SIMULTAN-
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EOUS FEARS IN DIFFERENT QUARTERS THAT HE IS ABOUT TO EM
BRACE THE COMMUNISTS AND THE FRANCOISTS, HAS VISIBLY
DISTANCED HIMSELF FROM HIS EARLIER TACTICAL COOPERATION
WITH THE PCE, WITHIN THE OPPOSITION "PLATAJUNTA",
AS THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS HAS SPUN OUT AND ELECT-
TIONS HAVE APPROACHED. THE PCE CAN HARDLY BLACKMAIL
RUIZ GIMENEZ WITH HIS BACKGROUND, SINCE EVERYONE KNOWS

THAT HE WAS FRANCO'S EDUCATION MINISTER IN THE EARLY 1950'S BUT HAS LONG SINCE RECENTED.

2. THE EQUIPO'S RIVAL IN THE CENTER IS THE RECENTLY FORMED "CENTRO DEMOCRATICO". CENTRO CONTAINS THREE AWOWED LY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUPINGS ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA'S PPDC, MONREAL LUQUE'S UDE, AND BARROS DE LIS MOCROSCOPIC UDC, AND ITS NAJOR CONSTITUTENT GROUPING THE PARTIDO POPULAR (PP) IS LED BY A NUMNER OF NON LABEL ED CD'S FROM THE RESPECTED "TACITO" ORGANIZATION. NONE OF THESE GROUPS, HOWEVER, IS A MEMEBER OF THEEQUIPO AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT ATTEMPTS BY PRESIDENCY MINISTER OSOR IO DURING THE RECENT CD "ENCOUNTER WITH EUROPE" TO SE CURE EUROPEAN CD UNION RECOGNITION OF SOME OF THE VENTERO GROUPINGS (MADRID 1026) DID NOT GET OFF THE GROUND. (CONSEQUENTLY, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT OTHER MEMBER PARTIES OF THE UNION, PARTICULARLY THE ITALIANS, DO NOT SHARE THE CDU'S CONCERNS).

3. THE EQUIPO AND CENTRO ARE EXPECTED TO SHARE MOST OF THE CENTRIST VOTE IN THE COMING ELECTIONS. EACH SHOULD RECEIVED A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THIS SIZABLE SLICE. ALTHUGH IT IS ANTICIAPATED HERE THAT CENTRO, WHICH ENJOYS THE BACKING OF SOME GOVT MINISTERS, WILL SHOW BETTER. AT WRITING CENTRO IS STRONGER IN THE GROGRAPHICAL CENTER, WHILE THEEQUIPO HAS MORE CLOUT IN THE BASQUE PROVINCES AND CATALONIA. BOTH COALITIONS SHOULD PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN THE EVOLUTION OF SPANISH DEMOCRACY. WHILE BOTH ADVOCATE THE

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LEGALIZATION OF THE PCE. CENTRO AND THE EQUIPO ALSO ARE PROFROUNDLY ANTI COMMUNISTS. STABLER

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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